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COCHIN
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION, 1117

Monday, *the* *16th February 1942*
5th Kumbham 1117

The Council met in the Council Hall, Ernakulam, at Eleven of the Clock with the Hon'ble the President (A. F. W. DIXON, Esq., I.C.S.), in the Chair.

Messrs. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan, L. M. Pylee, T. V. Subramania Ayyar, K. R. Viswambharan, the Commissioner of Excise and Mrs. C. R. Iyyunni were absent.

SWEARING IN

Messrs. M. D. Narayana Ayyar (Officiating Chief Engineer) and K. R. Achyutan (Member for Trichur-Ezhuvas) were sworn in.

OPENING STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

Mr. President: I had not intended to address Hon'ble Members at the beginning of this session, but in view of the grievous news just received of the fall of India's great bastion, Singapore, I feel that a few words are necessary.

The war is indeed now at our doors, and the Naval forces of the Japanese will, no doubt, make their presence felt to an increasing degree in the Indian Ocean. Now is the time not for panic or despair, but for staunchness and firm resolve.

In the summer of 1940 when France collapsed and Britain was left alone to face the mighty Axis war machine, the British people, far from giving way to panic or despair, rose to great heights of courage, determination and self-sacrifice. It is that spirit which is wanted here today. Everyone must play his part, whether by offering for war service, joining the special guards or the A. R. P. services, contributing to the War Fund or War Loans or allaying panic and preventing the spread of false rumours among the people.